

2007 Annual Report

DELAWARE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT SECTION



2007 ANNUAL REPORT



**AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**



**A Division of the Department of Natural
Resources and Environmental Control**

Page

INTRODUCTION

The 2007 annual report catalogs the activities of the men and women of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Enforcement Section. The Enforcement Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife received re-accredited status from the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. in 2005. It was originally accredited in 1994. Currently it is the only natural resources law enforcement agency accredited.

Documented within this report one will find agency statistics on our Boating Safety and Education program, enforcement statistics related to our resource protection activities and public safety services, search and rescue activities, boating accident statistics, boat registration statistics, and other items of interest to the Enforcement Section.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Enforcement Section Organization	6
--	---

Enforcement Staff	7
-------------------------	---

Personnel:

New Hires	9
-----------------	---

Promotions	9
------------------	---

New Assignments	9
-----------------------	---

Retirements	9
-------------------	---

Awards	10
--------------	----

Internal Affairs Stats	11
------------------------------	----

Goals and Objectives (2008)	13-14
-----------------------------------	-------

Training	16-17
----------------	-------

Budget	20-23
--------------	-------

Special Projects	24
------------------------	----

Boat Registration	26-27
-------------------------	-------

Boating Safety	29-30
----------------------	-------

Boating Accidents:

Delaware Annual Boating Statistics	32
--	----

Boating Accidents (continued):

2007 Annual Report

Accidents by Day of Week	33
Boating Accidents by Time of Day	33
Boating Accidents Day vs. Night	34
Boating Accidents by Type	34
Boating Accidents by Body of Water	35
Boating Accidents by Vessel Type	35
Boating Accidents by Vessel Operation	36
Boating Accidents by Operator Age	36
Boating Accidents by Environmental Conditions.....	37
Boating Accidents by County	38

Personal Watercraft Accidents:

Personal Watercraft Accident Facts	40
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Arrests:

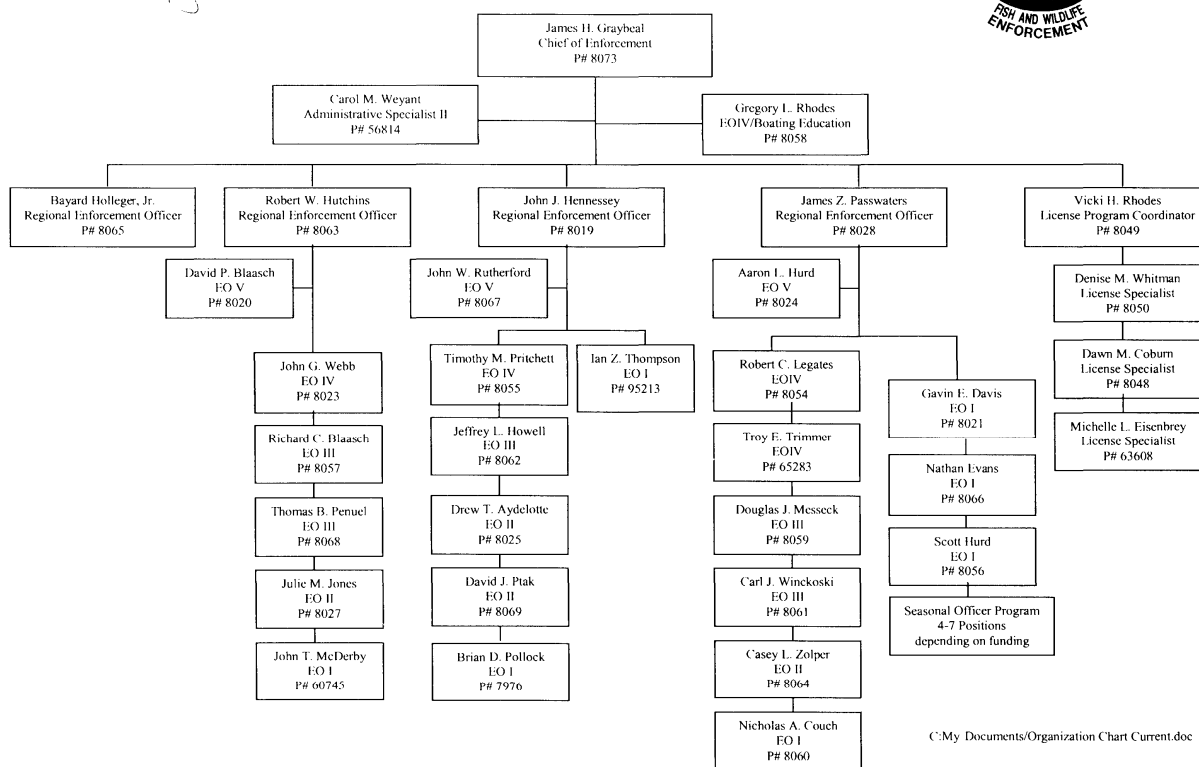
Top Ten Violations.....	42-44
Arrests Yearly Comparison (Wildlife).....	45
Arrests Yearly Comparison (Boating).....	45
Arrests Yearly Comparison (Fisheries).....	46
Arrests Yearly Comparison (Shell fisheries).....	46
Arrests Yearly Comparison (Other).....	47
Arrests Yearly Comparison (Total Arrests).....	47
2004 Arrests by Class	48
2004 Arrests by County	48

Enforcement Section Organizational Chart

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Enforcement Section

CURRENT

Patrick J. Ensey



C:\My Documents\Organization Chart Current.doc

2007
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Enforcement Staff

Position	Office Staff	Statewide	New Castle	Kent	Sussex
Chief	1				
Major	1				
Captain			1	1	1
Lieutenant			1	1	1
Sergeant	1		1	1	2
Senior Corp.			2	1	2
Corporal			2	1.5	2
AFC				2	3
Trainee					
Reserve			1		1
Chaplain		1			
Mechanic		.5			
Civilian	7				
Total	10	1.5	7	7.5	12

Personnel

New Hires

Kurt Reuther was hired as a Reserve Agent in Sussex County.

Promotions

In 2007, the pay for performance plan and promotional standards continued into its tenth year with the enforcement agents of D.N.R.E.C. The plan called for agents to complete tasks within a matrix for each enforcement rank to advance within their rank's performance levels. Each rank has a skill building, full performance, and expert level.

The following agents were promoted in 2007:

CPL (EX) Drew Aydelotte promoted to SCPL (SB)
CPL (SB) Nick Couch promoted to CPL. (FP)
AFC (SB) Gavin Davis promoted to AFC (FP)
CPL (SB) Casey Zolper promoted to CPL (FP)
AFC (SB) Scott Hurd promoted to AFC (FP)
AFC (SB) Nate Evans promoted to AFC (FP)
CPL (SB) Dave Ptak promoted to CPL (FP)
AFC (SB) Ian Thompson promoted to AFC (FP)
LT (EX) Aaron Hurd promoted to Acting CAPT. (SB)

New Assignments

Scpl. Thomas Penuel was re-assigned to Sussex County in November.

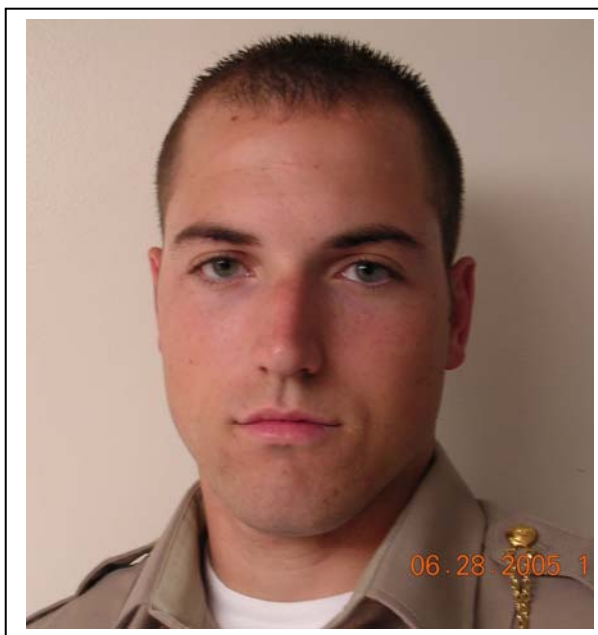
Retirements

Capt. James Passwaters retired at the end of November.

2007 Enforcement Awards



Marine Officer of the Year
Casey Zolper



Shikar Safari International Award
Nathan Evans

**DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
ENFORCEMENT SECTION**

INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY REPORT

Report Period: 1/1/2007 to 12/31/2007

Cases pending from 2006: 0

Cases received for 2007: 6

Harassment and Unprofessional Conduct -	2
Misuse of State Vehicle-	1
Abuse of Authority-	1
Failure to Maintain Accurate Records-	1
Conduct Unbecoming an Officer-	1

Cases changed to lesser charges: 0

Dispositions - Sustained (Criminal):	0
Sustained (Non-criminal):	2
Not Sustained:	0
Exonerated:	3
Unfounded:	0
Dropped:	0
Policy Failure:	0

Cases pending at end of 2007: 0

Goals and Objectives 2008

1. Ensure organizational effectiveness through quality services by providing the citizens of Delaware law enforcement and public safety services.

- **Engaging in strategic planning:** A new five (5) year plan will be drafted and finalized this year.
- **Fiscal planning and management:** Overtime, FMP and Forestry overtime allocated to the counties.
- **Control employee work performance and productivity.** (Timesheets, activity logs, complaints, LEISS reports are all in an electronic format.
- **Replace outdated equipment or unserviceable equipment.**
- **Manage resources to provide the best coverage and prompt public service.**
Re-organization Advisory Committee meets Thursday February 28, 2008.

2. All Enforcement Section employees will maintain and promote the CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation program.

- **The next on-site will be scheduled for August of 2008. Our last re-accreditation was November of 2005.**
- **Each County Captain will continue to collect proofs of compliance for accreditation standards.**

3. Pursue professional excellence by providing Division personnel with a variety of personal and professional development programs and methods.

- **Provide effective job related training.**
- **Pursue personal and professional development through CAP.**

4. Preventing, investigating and prosecuting illegal natural resources activity within the State of Delaware.

- **Enforce all hunting, fishing, and boating statutes and regulations.**
- **Increase the number of special operations within counties.** i.e., waterfowl, decoy deer, boating safety checks, fisheries and shellfish checkpoints.
- **Become a more full serviced organization. Handle all hunting and boating accident investigations as the lead agency.**

5. Enhance and promote the public image of the Enforcement Section.

- **Increase public outreach, (Delaware State Fair, schools, ride-along programs)**
- **Provide educational opportunities.**
- **Increase submission of publications, (Observer, newspapers, Outdoor Delaware, Ducks Unlimited).**
- **Attend public events with our display (Delaware State Fair, job fairs).**
- **Promote the Section's identity. Sgt. Greg Rhodes Enforcement Section's Public Information Officer.**

6. Provide educational opportunities to the citizens of Delaware in the Hunter Safety and Boating Education.

- **Hunter education and Boating Safety legal requirements.**
- **Provide young children with conservation ethics programs.**
- **Vessel Safety Checks- will be put in all operational plans for the upcoming boating months.**

Training

Enforcement Agents attended training courses ranging from group in-service training to individual courses during conference workshops or at local Police Academies and colleges this year. In-service training was conducted in February. Additionally, newly promoted personnel attended courses to prepare them for their new duties, while newly hired agents attended Boat Accident Investigation and the Marine Patrol Officer Course (MPOC). Seasonal agents attended a training course conducted by the Division of Parks and Recreation and received additional training in Fish and Wildlife Enforcement's procedures.

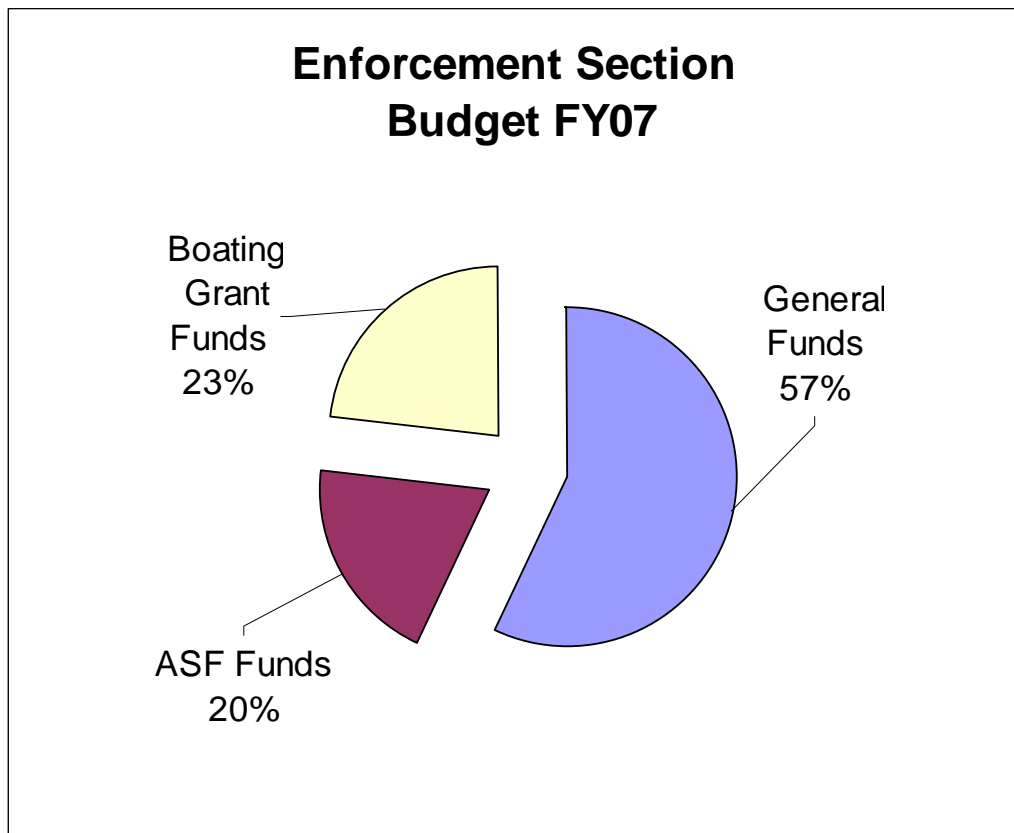
Training Topics for Courses attended by agents in 2007

- Accreditation Updates
- BARD Accident Database
- NOAA Law Updates
- Fisheries Law Update
- Wildlife Law Update
- Shellfish Updates
- Goals & Objectives
- Marine Patrol Officers Course MPOC
- IAMI Vessel Theft Training
- Mercury Verado Engine Training
- DEMA ICS 100 Training
- Patrol Rifle Certification
- Firearms Re-qualification
- TASER Certification
- Man Tracking
- NCIC Certification
- Charter Captains Course
- TRACS Training
- Racial Profiling Prevention
- Strategic Counter terrorism Training
- Mercury Marine Products Training
- LE Intelligence "Toolbox"

2007 Annual Report

Firearms Instructor Training
FY07 Port Security Grants
Refresher Defensive Driving
PPE Technology Conference
First Aid/AED/CPR
Initial Patrol Rifle Qualification
Intro to K-9 Operations
Goals and Objectives
Strategic Thinking
SOW for All Hazards Preparedness
NASBLA Level I – Boat Accident Invest.
Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings
MD NRP Police – Covert Operations
Water Rescue
Combating Major Crimes
Special Weapons and Tactics School
OCAT Instructor Course
Critical Incident Mgmt- Marine Environment
Tactical Marine Operators Course
Visionary Leadership
DEMA NIMS Course
E-Ticket Training
DEMA ICS 100
DEMA ICS 200
Police Chiefs' Staff Development Seminar
FLETC Marine Law Enforcement Trng Program
Portal 100
Positioning Yourself In Your Career
Basic Instructors Course
Hurricane Preparedness
Jt Hazard Assmt Team – Trng & Drill
COOP/COG Course
MANPADS
Woodland Tactical Operations
Fraud Investigations
Persons Prohibited to Own Firearms

Budget

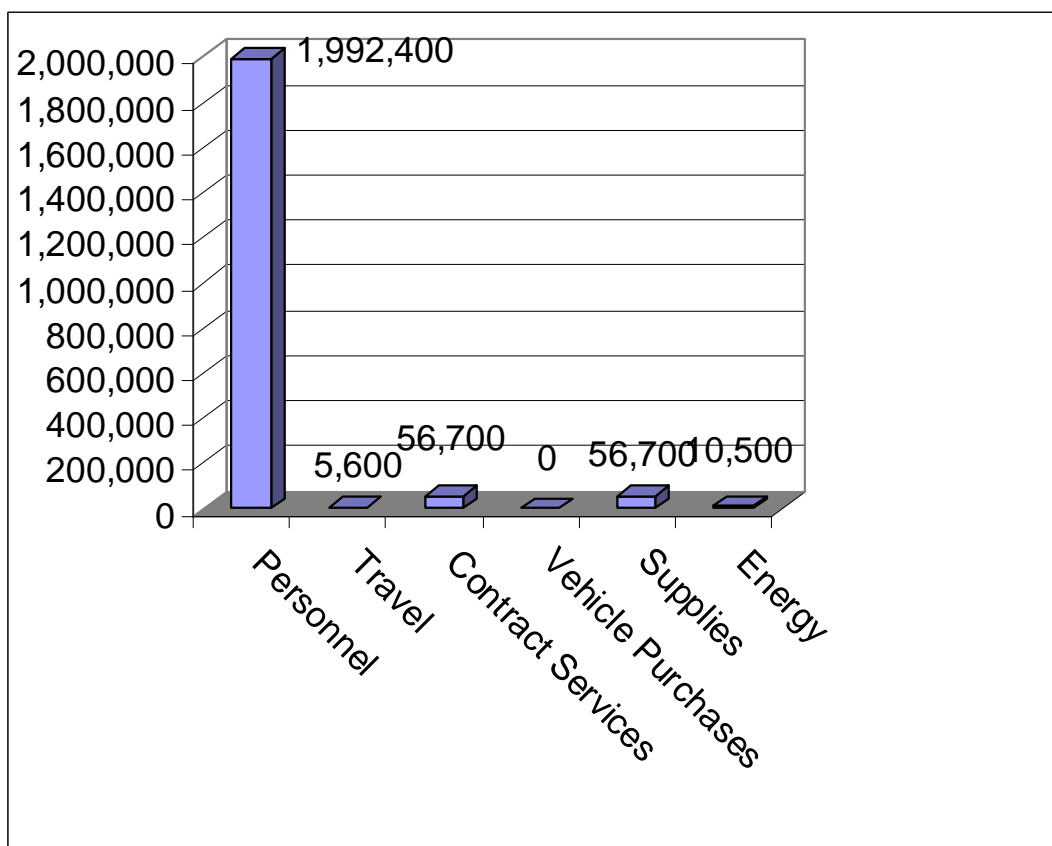


General Funds – 57% - \$2,121,900

ASF Funds – 20% - \$735,400

Boating Safety Grant – 23% - \$868,788

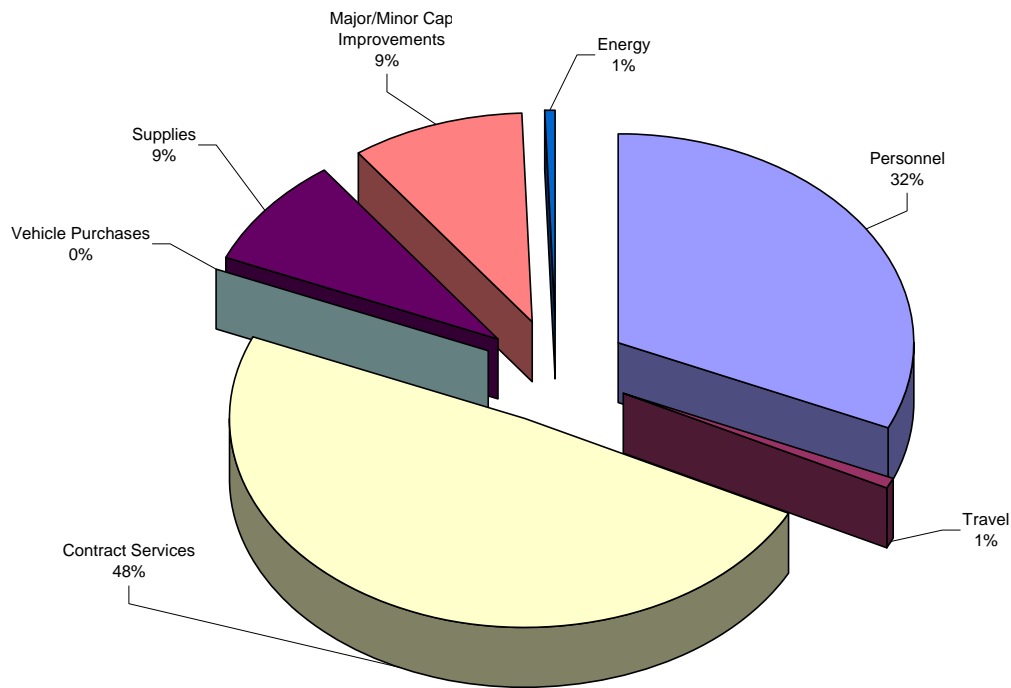
Budget FY 07 General Funds



Personnel:	\$1,992,400
Travel:	\$ 5,600
Contract Services:	\$ 56,700
Vehicle Purchases:	\$ 0
Supplies:	\$ 56,700
Energy:	\$ 10,500

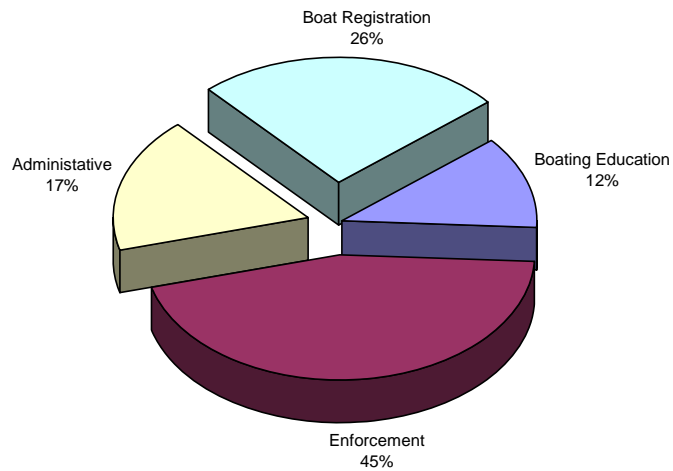
Budget FY 07

ASF Spending Authority



Personnel	\$233,000
Travel	\$5,900
Contractual Services	\$359,500
Vehicle Purchases	\$0
Supplies	\$63,400
Major/Minor Cap. Improvements	\$68,600
Energy	\$5,000

**Recreational Boating Grant
FY 07**



Boating Education	\$103,191
Enforcement	\$390,955
Administration	\$151,509
Boat Registration	\$223,133

Special Projects

Fisheries Management Plan Operations:

With funding approved from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission , enforcement efforts in enforcing laws governing fish and shellfish falling under Federal Fisheries Management Plans were continued. Funds were used to pay overtime for directed enforcement patrols aimed at protecting target species of fish. Special operations involved stake outs of fish nets along the Delaware coast for the taking of undersize fish and creel limits. Commercial Blue Crab crabbers were targeted for size limits this year. The horseshoe crab fishery was not as busy as in past years due to a fall in the price of the crabs. Directed patrols concentrated on illegal taking of fish by recreational hook and line fishermen utilizing fish checkpoints at marine access locations and waterborne vessel inspections.

Youth Fishing Tournament:

Again this spring, the enforcement section sponsored its Youth Fishing Tournament at three locations throughout the state. The tournament was scheduled to coincide with National Fishing Week and the Governor's proclamation of a free fishing day each spring to encourage participation in freshwater fishing. The sites for the tournament were New Castle - Lums Pond, Kent - Wyoming Pond and Sussex - Ingrams Pond. Participants were divided into three age groups, age 4-7, age 8-11, and age 12-15. Prizes donated by local sporting goods and bait and tackle stores were awarded in all categories for largest fish, smallest fish and most fish caught by weight. Catch and release fishing was taught.

Season Agent Program:

During 2007, The Section continued its seasonal agent program with four college students working with full time enforcement agents in Sussex County. Kent county continued with one seasonal agents and one seasonal agent was hired for New Castle County. The seasonal agents were trained in radio procedures, report writing, fish identification, certified in CPR and the use of Pepper Spray. They completed a safe boating certification course which included boat handling. Funding for the project was obtained from the general fund budget and the Center for the Inland Bays program (funded two positions). Duties of the seasonal agents included vessel maintenance and operation, traffic control at public launch ramps, surveillance operations, and assistance to enforcement agents.

Boat Registration

2007

VESSEL REGISTRATION REPORT

Delaware had a total of 52,119 vessels registered in 2006. In 2007, 55,564 vessels were registered, of which 6,005 were Personal Watercraft. This represents an increase in total vessel registrations of about 1 % over 2006. PWC registrations increased by 1% over the 2006 figures.

In addition to the Vessel registration office in the DNREC building, contract vessel registration agents total 20 statewide. There are 3 agents in New Castle County, 1 in Kent County, and 16 in Sussex County. In addition to registration agents, the public may now renew their vessel registration online with a credit card.

Outlets for purchasing Public Boat Ramp Certificates total 25 statewide. There are 4 in New Castle, 3 in Kent , and 18 located in Sussex county.

ANNUALLY REGISTERED DELAWARE VESSELS

1962	8,974	1990	40,146
1963	9,538	1991	40,569
1964	9,788	1992	40,286
1965	10,230	1993	42,144
1966	10,818	1994	40,985
1967	12,003	1995	42,479
1968	13,387	1996	42,856
1969	14,546	1997	43,461
		1998	44,458
		1999	45,854
1970	15,589		
1971	17,510	2000	46,719
1972	19,555	2001	47,486
1973	21,037	2002	49,563
1974	23,123	2003	49,935
1975	24,557	2004	51,797
1976	26,457	2005	52,119
1977	27,600	2006	53,423
1978	29,103	2007	55,564
1979	30,721		
1980	32,956		
1981	34,291		
1982	35,543		
1983	36,167		
1984	37,402		
1985	39,875		
1986	42,831		
1987	43,121		
1988	41,563		
1989	41,019		

Boating Safety

2007 Boating Education Report

❑ **PFD / Rules of the Road Awareness Program**

Delaware boating volunteers continued a program to promote the wearing of PFDs and awareness of the Rules of the Road. Volunteers handed out flyers on the importance of wearing PFDs and having a good knowledge of the Rules of the Road. Additionally, Rules of the Road were stressed in boating classes and materials were distributed to marine dealers.

❑ **Science Alliance, “What In the World?”**

Delaware has continued its partnership with the State of Delaware Science Alliance program which goes into schools statewide and presents life jacket and water safety presentations to children from first to seventh grades. In 2007, 1,874 children participated in this program.

❑ **Delaware Library “Dive Into Reading Program”**

The Office of Boating Education Volunteers presented “Dive into Reading” Life Jackets and Water Safety. Families were signed-up to participate at local libraries and given the opportunity to try on different lifejackets and learn about the issues of water safety.

❑ **Fatal Vision / Boating Under the Influence**

Boating classes continued to stress the dangers of operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol. Fatal Vision Goggles were used to simulate the vision one has when under the influence.

❑ **Boat U.S. /NMFS Partnership/Pollution**

The Division of Fish and Wildlife Office of Boating Education continued a co-partnership with the NMFS and Boat U.S. Partnership in Marine Conservation. The Office of Boating Education distributed Ethical Angler information crack and peel stickers to boaters fishing in Delaware’s freshwater and salt-water areas. The Ethical Angler program stresses the ideals of responsible fishing and water pollution prevention.

❑ **Advertising**

Division of Fish and Wildlife advertised boating classes in newspapers statewide. Repeated this year was the purchase of an insert placed in Delaware News Journal and The Guide reaching 190,000 residents. Also continued this year was the promotion of the Boating Safety Education Program through radio promotion with Public Service Announcements (PSA’s) on WGMD, a local radio station in the coastal area.

❑ **State Certification**

Delaware certified 1,605 boating education students in 2007. The office of boating education strives to schedule classes to fit the needs of today's busy society. Our On-line course was offered through two internet sites maintained by Boat-ED.com and Boaterexam.com. Students can go online to study and, when ready, take the online test and print a boater certification card. The number of students certified online was 947 in 2006. The number of online students grew to 1,019 in 2007. The on-line course is promoted during our public outreach activities.

❑ **Boating Volunteer Hours**

The Division of Fish and Wildlife Office of Boating Education Volunteers teach boating education classes statewide. 1,646 documented volunteer hours were recorded for 2007. In addition to teaching boating classes some volunteers man safety tables, present boating safety presentations to non-profit organizations and the boating public statewide. Volunteers assist with administrative tasks for the Office of Boating Safety and distribute literature at boat ramps while conducting Marine Safety Checks for boating equipment.

❑ **National Safe Boating Week Volunteer Awards Banquet**

The Office of Boating Safety held the annual National Safe Boating Week Awards Banquet honoring volunteers for their work in boating safety. National Safety Congress Awards were given to Delaware's Boating Volunteer with exceptional volunteer hours and programs. Delaware has 484 volunteers.

❑ **Spanish Speaking Volunteer Recruitment**

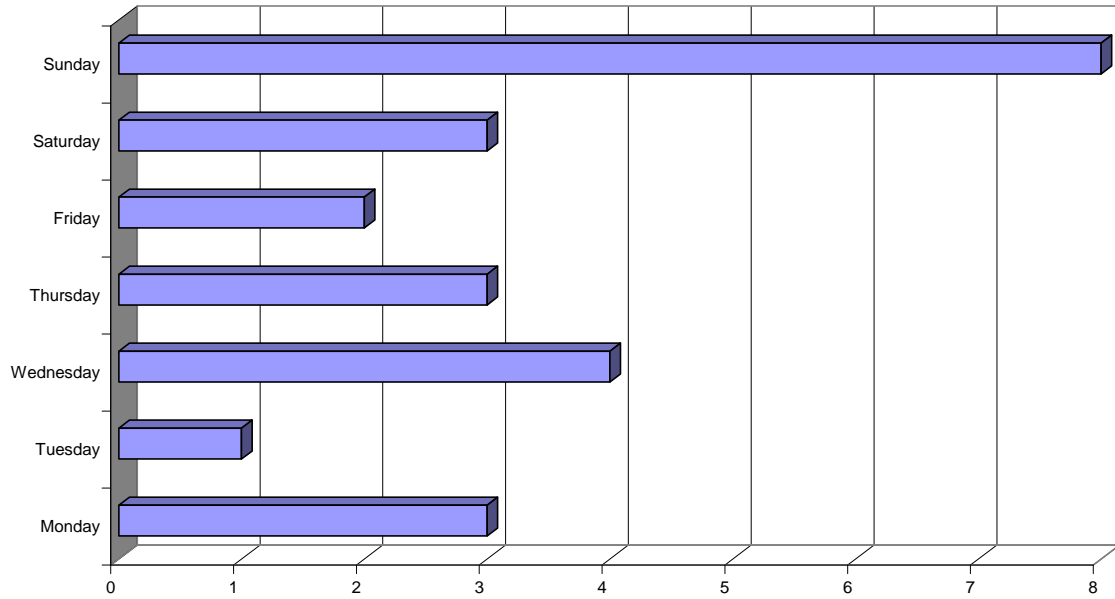
The Office of Boating Safety continued its Spanish Basic Boating Course. The Office of Boating Education presently has three volunteers that speak and write Spanish. Only a few Spanish boating classes were offered in 2007. To promote the Spanish boating course, radio ads were purchased.

Boating Accidents

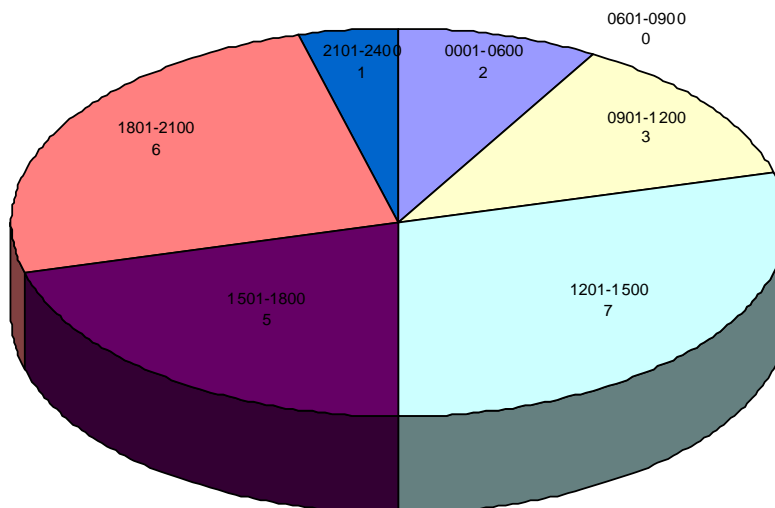
Delaware Annual Accident Statistics

YEAR	# of ACC.	FATAL	INJURY	PROP. DAMAGE	BOATS REG.'ED
2007	24	2	6		55,564
2006	18	2	4		53,423
2005	23	1	6		52,119
2004	26	1	5	209,600	51,797
2003	15	2	10	355,270	49,935
2002	16	3	5	65,000	49,563
2001	31	1	13	1,121,825	47,486
2000	25	2	11	179,750	46,719
1999	23	3	14	56,425	45,848
1998	37	6	19	294,977	44,458
1997	30	3	22	139,725	43,461
1996	29	2	17	104,000	42,856
1995	27	6	14	51,584	42,479
1994	23	1	5	53,450	40,985
1993	18	0	9	20,850	42,144
1992	26	0	13	251,455	40,286
1991	29	2	9	39,010	40,569
1990	28	1	13	73,295	40,146
1989	29	2	17	62,700	41,019
1988	25	1	5	44,600	41,563
1987	23	5	15	126,150	43,121
1986	24	3	10	51,900	42,831

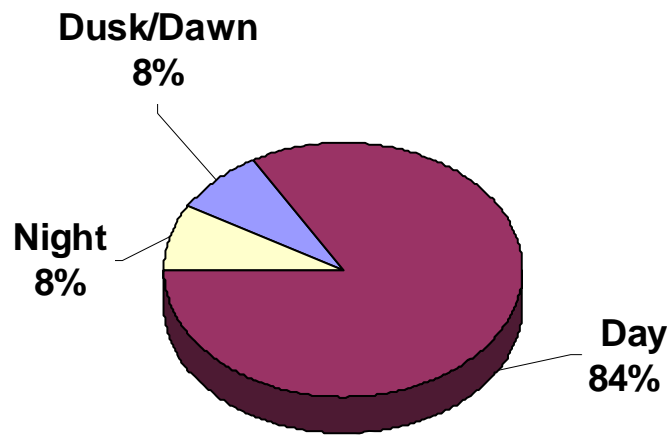
Boat Accidents by Day of Week 2007



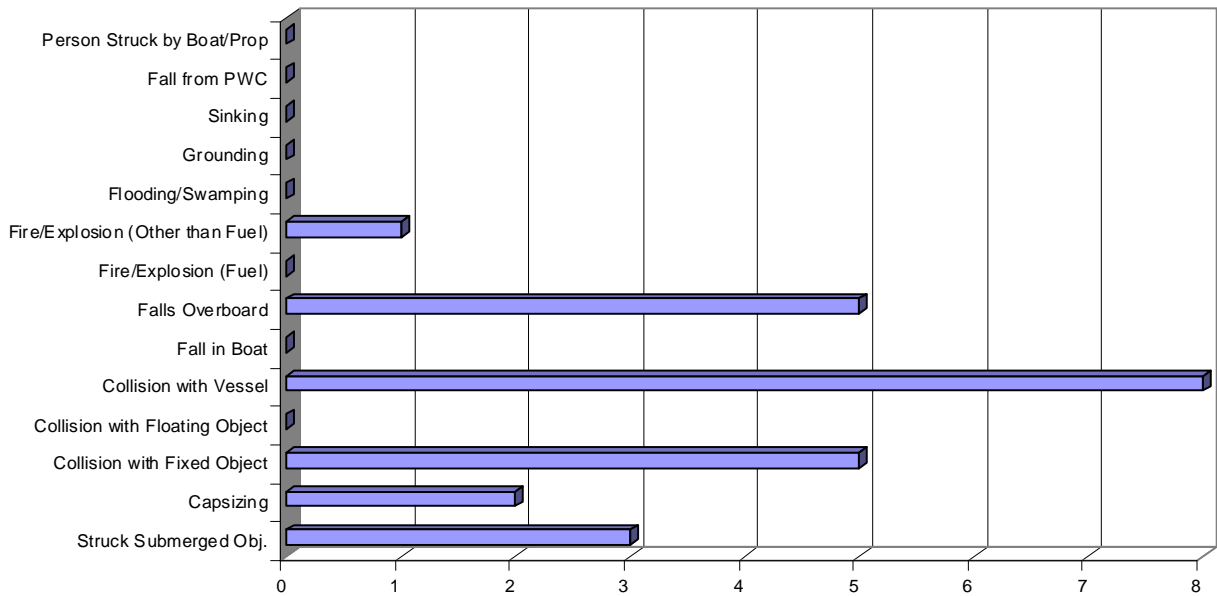
2007 Boating Accidents by Time of Day



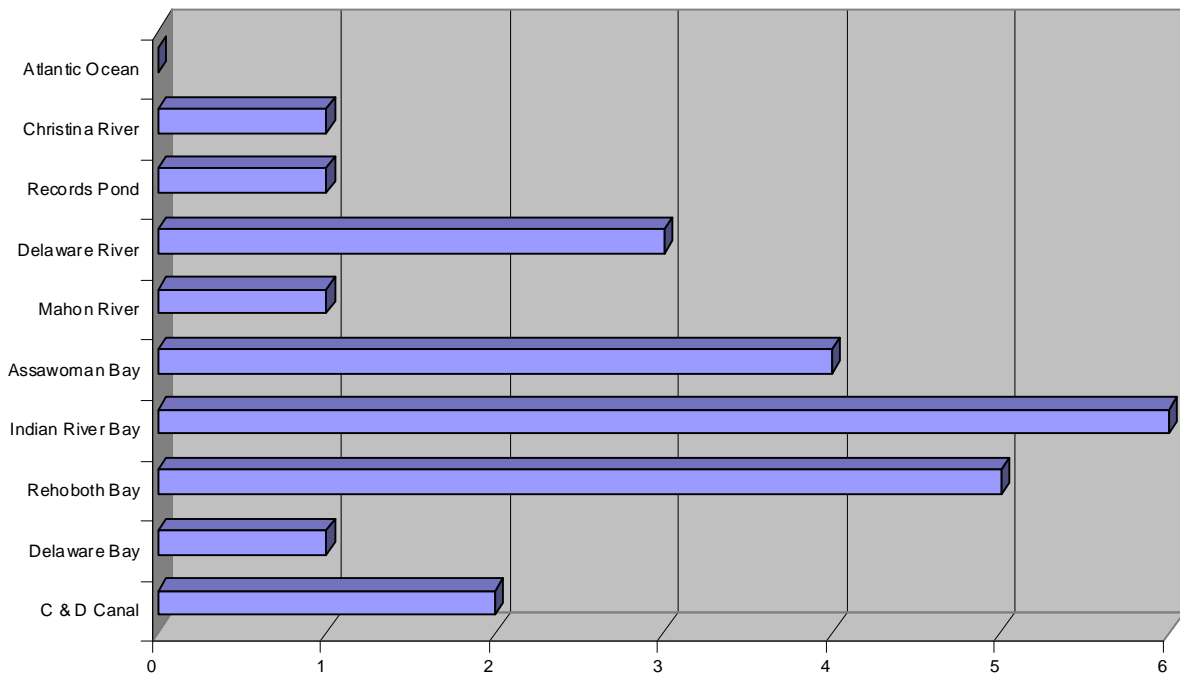
Day Vs. Night Accidents 2007



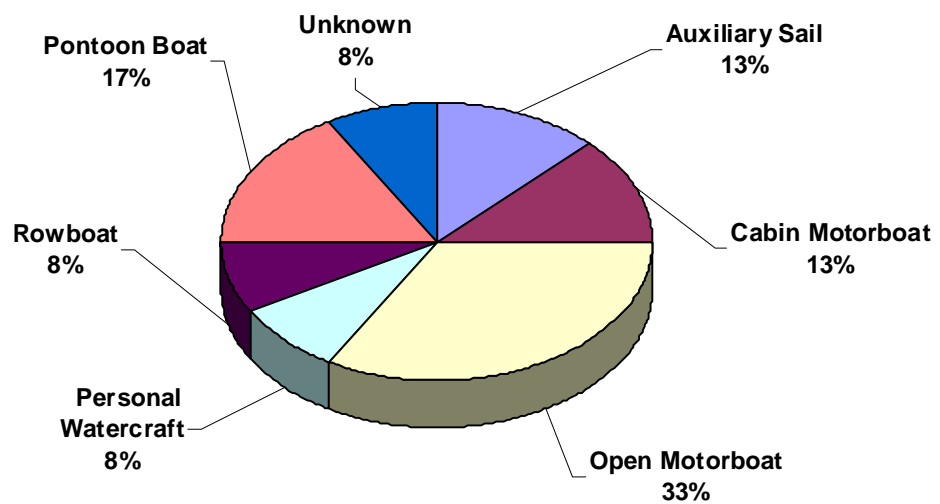
Boat Accidents By Type 2007



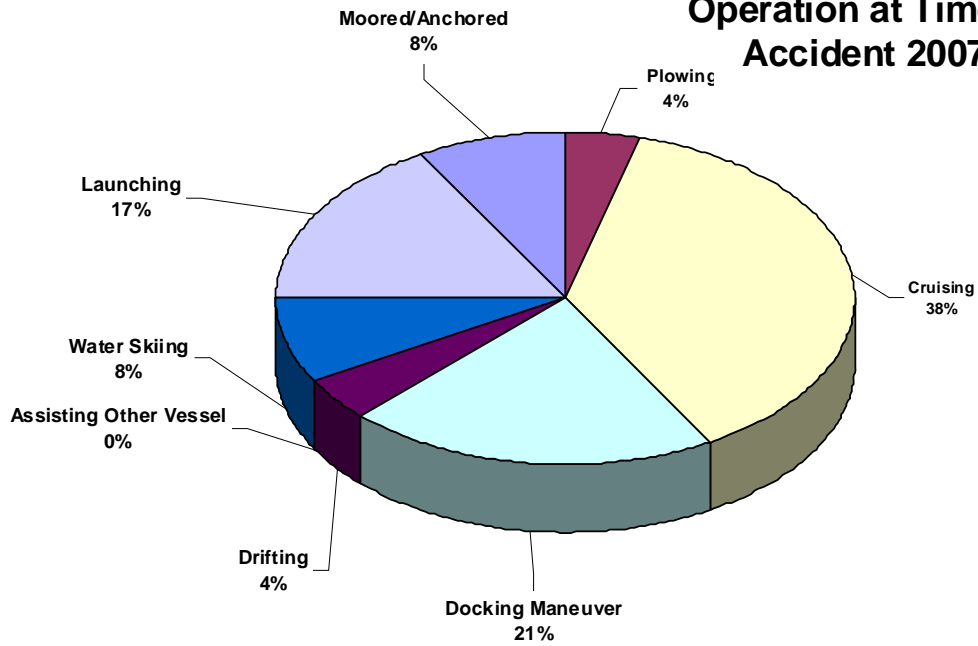
2007 Boating Accidents by Body of Water



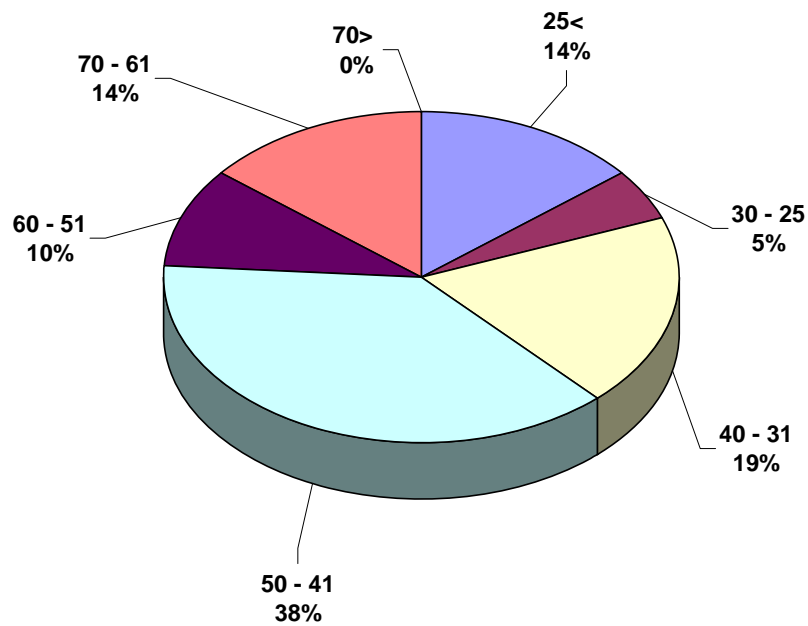
Boating Accidents By Vessel Type 2007



Boating Accidents by Operation at Time of Accident 2007



Boating Accidents By Operators Age 2007



Boating Accident Statistics By Environmental Conditions 2007

Weather

CLEAR	15
CLOUDY	5
FOG	0
HAZY	2
RAIN/SNOW	2

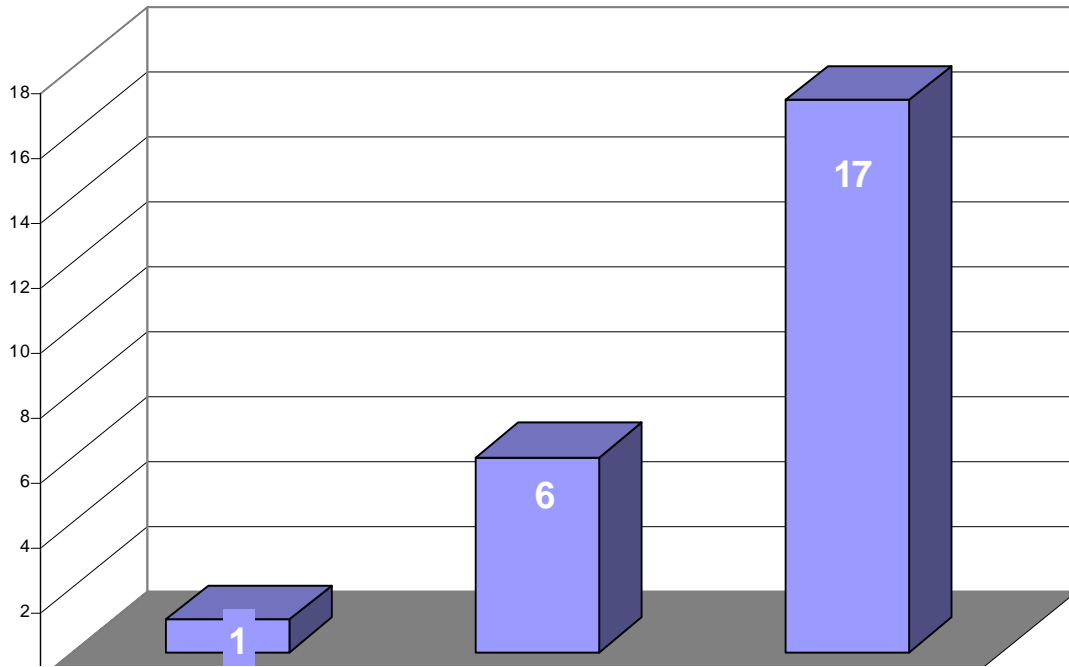
Visibility

GOOD	19
FAIR	3
POOR	2

Water Conditions

CALM	14
CHOPPY	7
ROUGH	1
VERY ROUGH	2
CURRENT	0

Boating Accident by Location 2007



Personal Watercraft

PWC Accident Statistics

2	-	Personal Watercraft Accidents
0	-	PWC Fatalities
0	-	PWC Injury Accidents
0	-	Persons Injured
3	-	PWC's Involved in accidents (2) Rental Craft

Types of Personal Watercraft Accidents

1	-	Collision with another vessel
1	-	Collision with another PWC

Arrest Statistics

Top Ten Wildlife Violations:

- **Enter Wildlife Area after Hours**
- **Trespass to Hunt/Fish/Trap**
- **Hunt/Fish without a License**
- **Possess Unlawfully Taken Game**
- **Unregistered Vehicle on Wildlife Area**
- **Operate Vehicle Off Established Roads in W.A.**
- **Possess Deadly Weapon by Person Prohibited**
- **Use of Prohibited Device**
- **No Hunter Orange**
- **Dumping on Wildlife Area**

Top Ten Fisheries Violations:

- **Undersize Summer Flounder**
- **Undersize Game Fish**
- **Undersize Striped Bass**
- **Method of Take Violation**
- **Undersize White Perch**
- **Tautog Size Limit**
- **Misc. Gill Net Violations**
- **No Game Fish License/Stamp**
- **Black Sea Bass Violation**
- **Undersize Shark**

Top Shellfish Violations:

- **Blue Crab Size Limit**
- **Blue Crab – Rec. Pot Tampering**
- **Blue Crab - Rec. Pot Limit**
- **Blue Crab – Rec. Pot Marking**
- **No By-catch Reduction Device (Crab Pot)**
- **Commercial Crab Pot Tampering**
- **Hard Clam in a Prohibited Area**
- **Fail to Tend Crab Pots**
- **Horseshoe Crab Method of Take**
- **Oyster Method of Take**

Top Boating Violations:

- **Equipment Violation - PFDs**
- **Invalid Boat Registration**
- **Child not wearing a PFD**
- **Boating Safety Certificate**
- **Slow – No Wake**
- **Negligent Operation**
- **Other Equipment Violations**
- **Boating Under the Influence**
- **No Boat Ramp Certificate**
- **Permit the use of a Non-Complying Vessel**

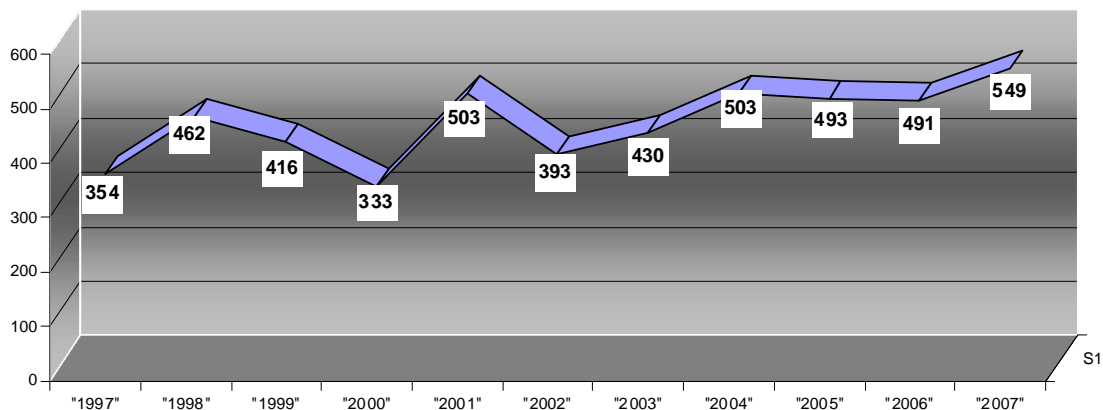
Top Ten Traffic Violations:

- Moving Violations
- No Drivers License
- Driving While Revoked/Suspended
- Identify Operator of OHV
- No Vehicle Insurance
- Unregistered Motor Vehicle
- Litter from a Motor Vehicle
- Drive Under the Influence
- Disregard Command of Police (Pursuit)
- Vehicle Equipment Violations

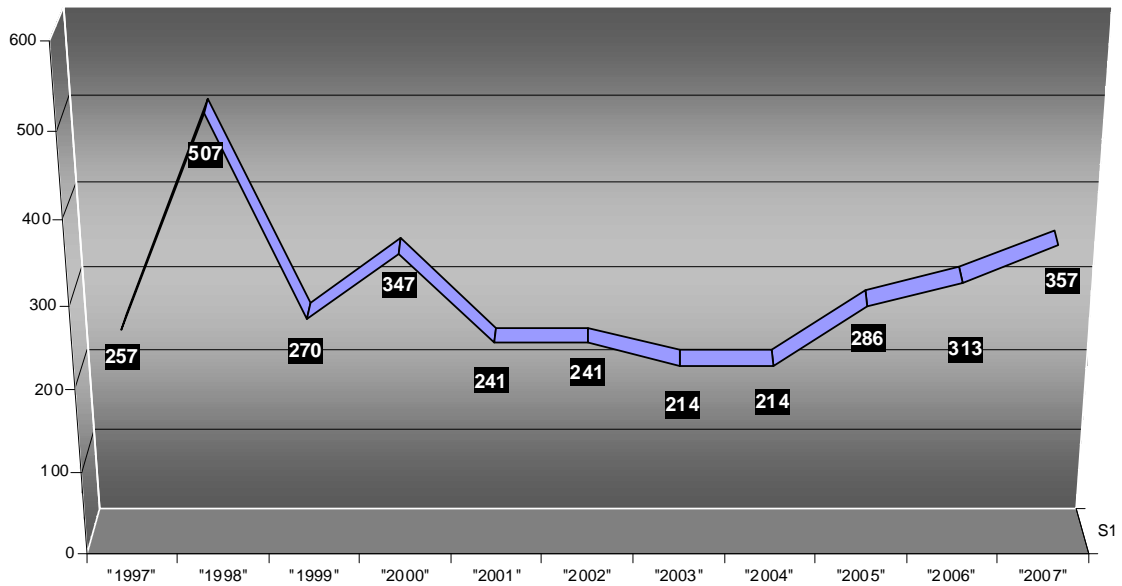
Top Ten Criminal Violations:

- Misc Criminal Charges
- Possess Drug Paraphernalia
- Possess Schedule I Drug
- Lewdness
- Conspiracy
- Disorderly Conduct
- Loitering / Solicit Sex
- Criminal Trespass
- Resist Arrest

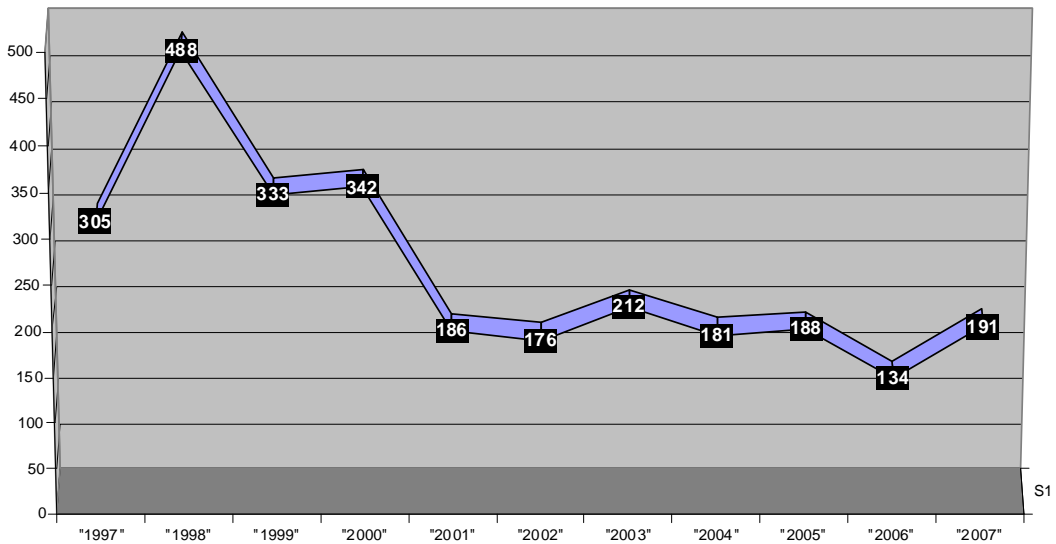
Wildlife Arrests Yearly Comparison



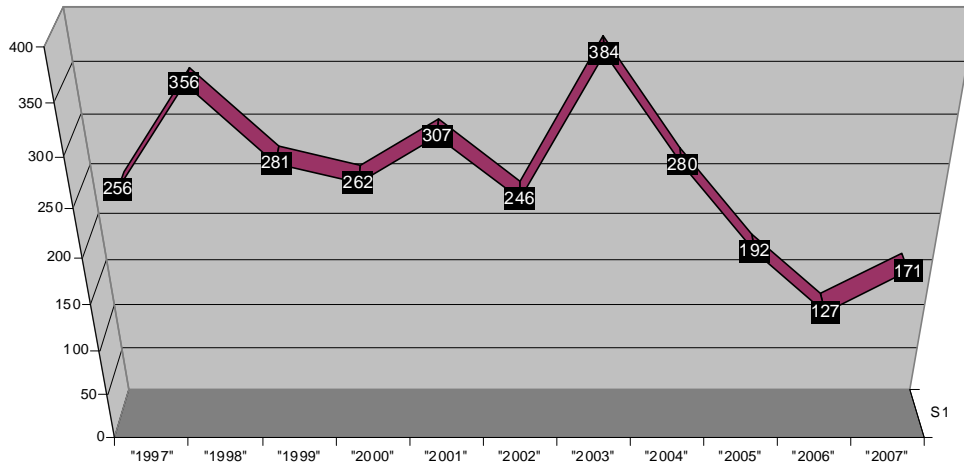
Boating Arrests Yearly Comparison



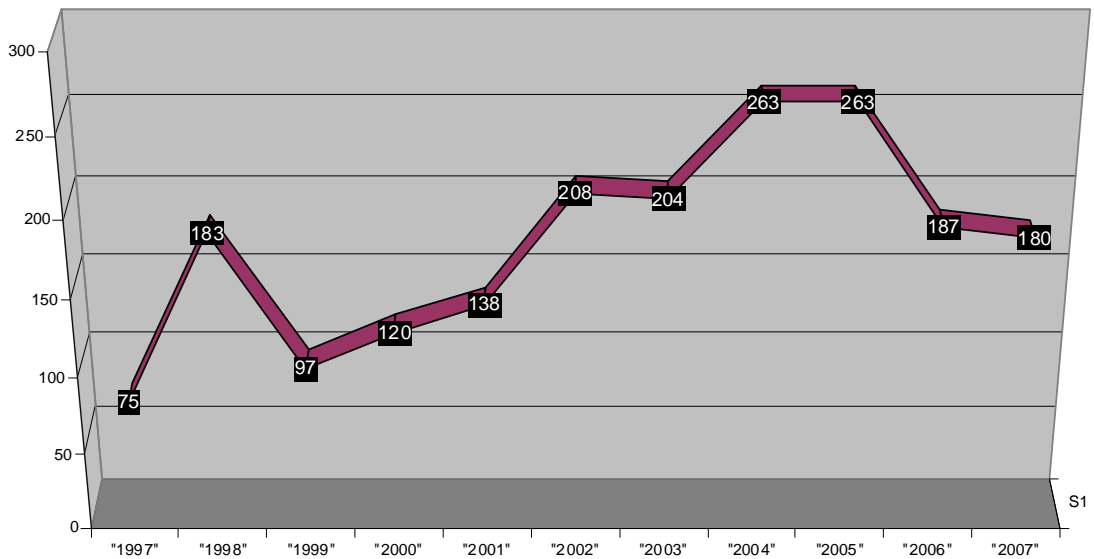
Fisheries Arrests Yearly Comparison



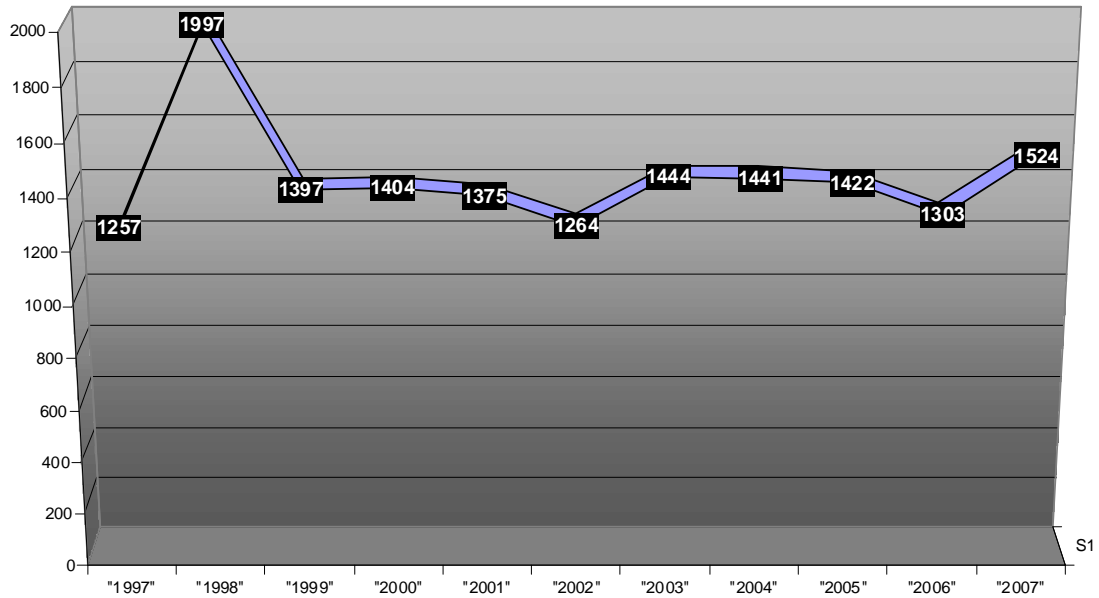
Shellfish Arrests Yearly Comparison



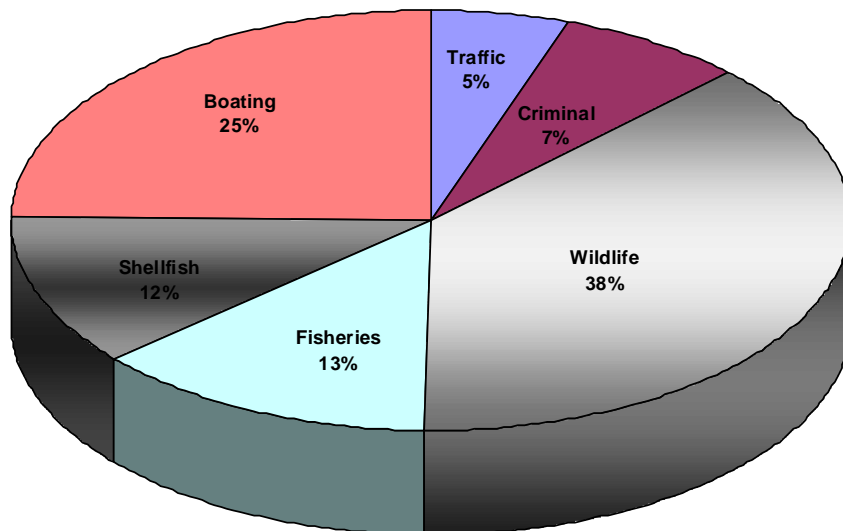
Traffic and Criminal Arrests Yearly Comparison



Total Yearly Arrests Comparison by Year



2007 Arrests by Class



2007 Arrests by County Units

